

**TESTIMONY OF HENRY EDWARDS**

**Appropriations Committee**

**February 23, 2017**

My name is Henry Edwards. I live in East Haven, Connecticut. I have lived at my current apartment for almost 4 years. Last year, I was not doing well because of the symptoms of my disability. I lost my job and I almost lost my housing. I received eviction paperwork saying that I must leave my apartment. I experienced so much stress, fear, anxiety and uncertainty. I was afraid. I did not know what I was going to do. I called Connecticut Legal Rights Project. An attorney there explained all of the paperwork to me. She said that I did not have to leave my apartment by the date on the notice. She explained that only a judge could order an eviction, not a landlord.

I did not realize that I owed some rent to the landlord. CLRP was able to advocate for me and received some funding from Continuum in New Haven to help with the back rent. CLRP also contacted my doctor at Connecticut Mental Health Center to discuss whether my symptoms had anything to do with my confusion about rent. CLRP represented me in court and saved my housing. I was so happy! I am sure that I would have been evicted if I had to represent myself in court against my landlord's attorney. Please keep the funding for CLRP as it is so that they can continue to help clients keep their housing. Thank you for listening.